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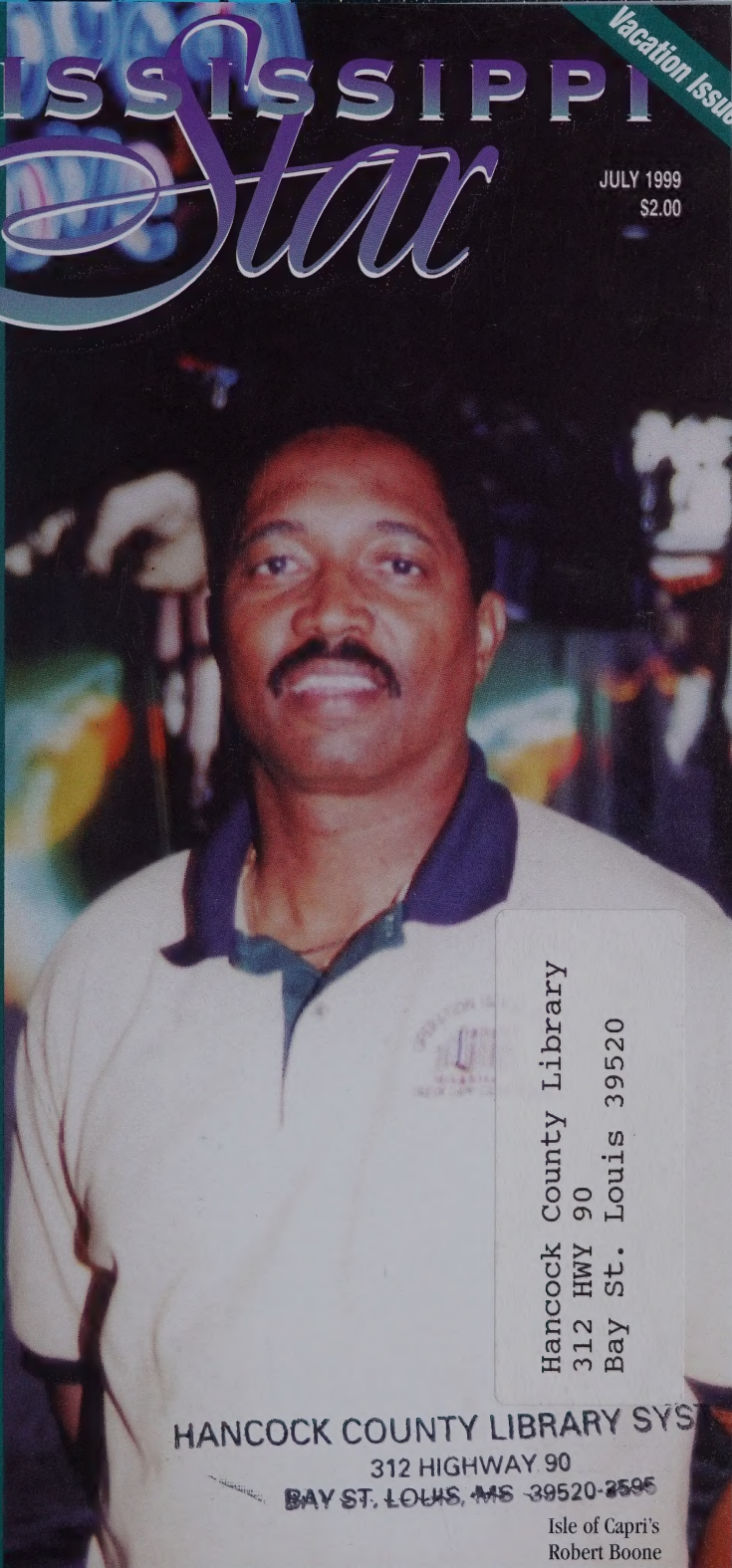

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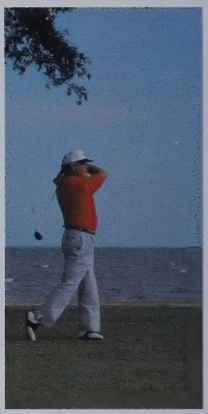

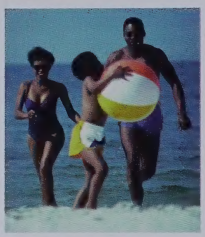

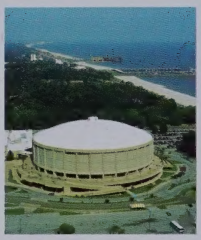

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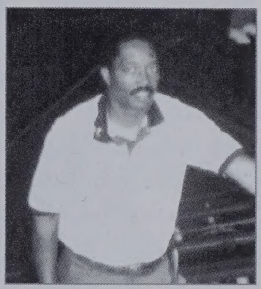

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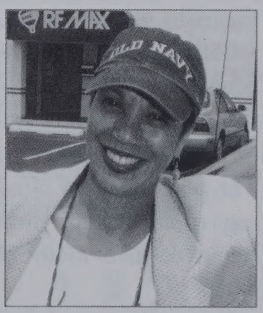

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FAMILY ★ HEALTH ★ EDUCATION ★ BUSINESS ★ CULTURE

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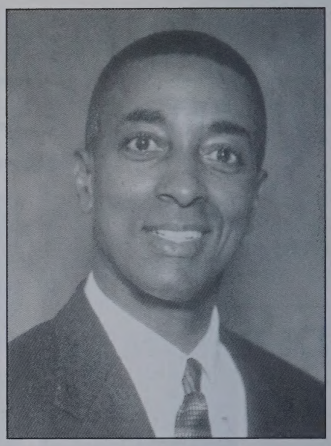


Maurice Singleton

A couple of weeks ago, I went swimming on the beach (near the "rock pile" in Bay St. Louis) for the first time in many years. The sand was firm; and the water was warm, refreshing and soothing. The salt water almost felt therapeutic going up my nose without burning, unlike fresh tap water. What a wonderful experience! I have been back twice since.

We take a lot for granted living on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. We see so many Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee and Texas car tags getting in our way, slowing us from getting to where we are going. It may do us some good to follow one of those "foreign" car tags sometimes, especially if the passengers are headed in the direction of the beach.

I had been driving by the beach almost daily as the visitors to our state enjoyed "our" beaches with their families, having picnics, sunbathing and playing and wading in the Gulf. Our beaches are only a fraction of what makes South Mississippi attractive to the many visitors to our area every day.

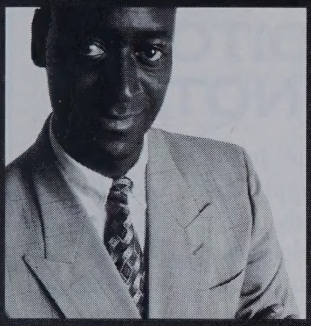
Certainly, the casinos draw many people for short stints. And for some, the short stints become longer stints, or they become more frequents stints. The point is, many outsiders are drawing more benefit from our many resources than many of us who live here.

It is really a good feeling living and working in a boom economy. After living in Houston, Texas, during a period of economic recession and Los Angeles after an economic recession sparked by social strife and an earthquake, South Mississippi – for me, anyway - is an oasis of incredible opportunity and potential.

Please read the article about Countess Crenchaw, the local realtor who is enjoying success as a consultative realtor, advising her clients not only in the area of how to buy homes, but how to increase value. Her successful formulas for buying and selling homes for profit appear to be working for her clients and herself as well.

Welcome to Judge John Whitfield, who - beginning with this issue - is bringing his radio show to print. Please enjoy his column *From The Bench.*

Best wishes for a continued pleasant summer!



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EDITOR'S NOTE

In the June 1999 issue of Mississippi Star we included an article about the 50th anniversary celebration program for Rev. Bartholomew S. Endslow, S.S.J., pastor of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church in Pass Christian. We listed the committee members, however we failed to include the names of some of the people who worked diligently and faithfully to make this event a tremendous success.

The committee was made up Laverne Ausmer, Regina Broach, Jerri Brown, Yvonne Ellis, Otis Gates, Christine Hunter, Olivia Hunter, Carmen Landry, Warren LeRuth, Sandra Normand, Betty Piernas, Althea Raboteau and Anna Mae Swanier.

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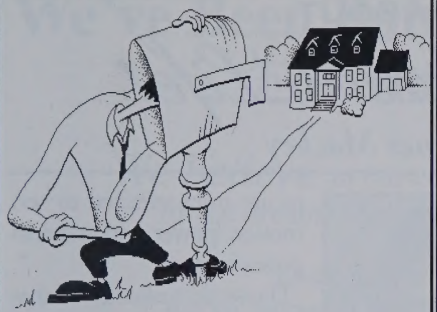

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Letters to the Publisher

should be 100 words or less.

Star Calendar: Events of interest to South Mississippians should be submitted on your organization's letterhead, specifying the date, time, place of event and a number of contact. Submissions should be received by the twentieth day of the preceding month. Be sure to include a daytime telephone number.

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SOMETHING TO PRAY ABOUT...

The Glamourous Life!

by Stacy James Mackey

Imagine visiting with someone and your conversation turns to secret desires. I'm not speaking of sexual fantasies; I'm referring to dreams, goals and aspirations: things you may not have ever really shared with someone else but pictured yourself doing or living like in the future, especially when you were a child or teenager. I found myself in such a "sharing" session and was revealing how when I was younger, I always pictured myself as this polished corporate professional – sharp suit, perfect nails, running a meeting in a long, fancy board room with my secretary seated behind me taking notes. Of course, I was making important decisions. I was taking charge and all in attendance respected me. I used to think that scene would be living the glamorous life.

My friend shared her memories. She recalled a day in high school when the teacher asked the students to tell how they saw themselves in the future. This young lady shared with the class how she hoped to be a high-priced call girl. Yes, I said *call girl*! Her dream was to be able to sleep with wealthy and notable men who would provide lavish gifts, travel getaways and an easy carefree lifestyle. I don't know how the teacher or students reacted, but I felt momentarily stunned. I had to really think about her words. Naturally, she was sharing thoughts from her once juvenile perspective, but I thought how many of us are truly attracted to sex, money, power and material possessions.

The world makes us feel that we'll somehow be happier if we have money and the things money affords us. Our televisions are bombarded with examples of the lifestyles of the rich and famous. Our flesh can't help but envy wealthy living just a little bit even if we don't share it with someone else out loud. Deep down, cars, homes and travel ARE the things that many people want and perceive as glamorous. I have heard many preachers speak on the subject of prosperity, but I have to keep reminding myself that Jesus was poor. I'm not saying that there is something wrong with having a desire to live a certain standard. My question is, "Where is God in the picture?"

Scripture shares with us, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33. God will bless you with the desires of your heart if you give Him top priority; but what you may find is that many of the things we lust after really aren't all that glamorous. My friend did share with me that now after overcoming many struggles in her life that she would rather have Jesus than her once idolized life of having silver and gold.

I hope I have given you *Something To Pray About.*

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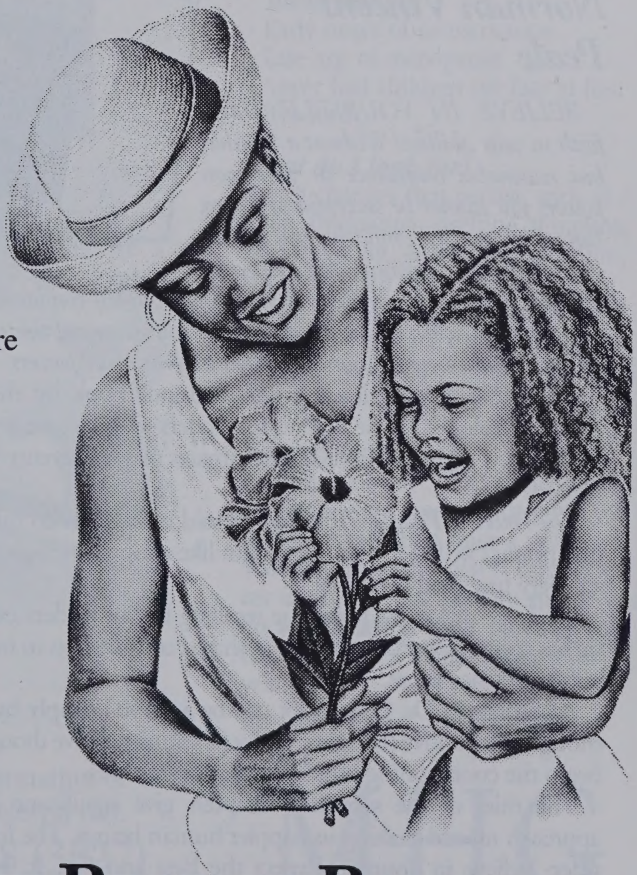

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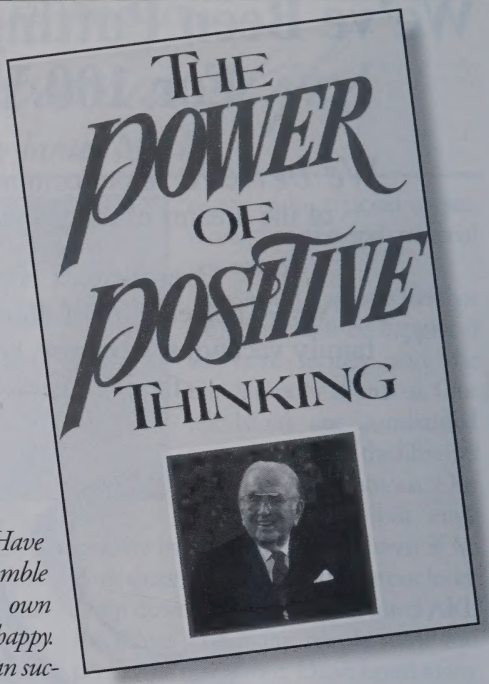
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

BOOK REVIEW

The Power of Positive Thinking

Author: Norman Vincent Peale



BELIEVE IN YOURSELF! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you cannot be successful or happy. But with sound self-confidence you can succeed. A sense of inferiority and inadequacy interferes with the attainment of your hopes, but self-confidence leads to self-realization and successful achievement. Because of the importance of this mental attitude, this book will help you believe in yourself and release your inner powers.

This paragraph begins the world-famous book by the late author Norman Vincent Peale. Dr. Peale teaches his readers to overcome self-doubt and feelings of inadequacy, a problem which he estimates plagues seventy-five percent of the population.

The Power of Positive Thinking has sold more than 20 million copies since it was first printed in 1952. That may seem like a long time ago, but the basic message is still very fresh and beneficial.

Dr. Peale makes his points by recalling for his readers experiences of individuals he has come in contact with or has shared consultation to help them overcome their self-confidence issues.

According to Dr. Peale, a lot can be achieved simply by changing our negative thoughts to positive thoughts. Or by repeating positive thoughts or messages, we can begin the conditioning process to change our lives.

The titles of the seventeen chapters give significant insight into Dr. Peale's approach toward making us happier human beings. The following are some of the titles: Believe in Yourself, Expect the Best and Get It, How to Have Constant Energy, A Peaceful Mind Generates Power, Try Prayer Power and How to Get People to Like You.

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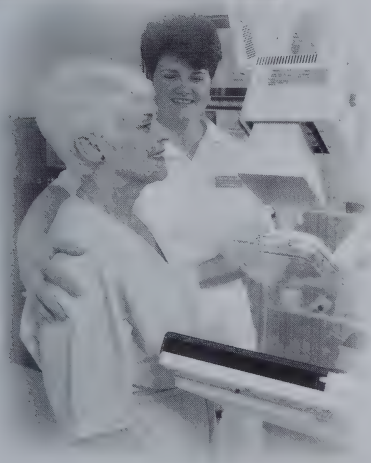

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What should I do?

Perform monthly self-examinations, and make sure your doctor gives you a breast examination once a year. Mammography can detect breast cancer up to two years before you or your doctor can feel a lump. So, once you turn 40, have a mammogram every year.

For more information or a physician referral call:

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Krystal Madden to Compete in The American Coed Pageant

by Maurice Singleton

Krystal Madden

Krystal Madden is the reigning Miss Speech Mississippi Junior Teen. The 15-year old Pass Christian High School junior won the speech competition and was the first runner-up in the academic competition of the Mississippi Coed Pageant which was held in Jackson on June 13.

This fall, Miss Madden will compete for the national title in The American Coed Pageant at Disney World in Orlanda, Florida, scheduled for November 22 – 29.

"I am very excited because I'm really looking forward to meeting new people," Krystal explained. "And I've never been to Disney World. I just can't wait to take a picture with Mickey Mouse."

Winners on the state level competed in the areas of poise and appearance, evening gown presentation and an interview. They were also judged on personal confidence and how well they articulated.

Krystal is currently on a mission to raise money for the trip and to purchase an outfit for a group production performance. Her goal is to sell ads to raise the $6000 for registration fees and other expenses. She is seeking corporate as well as individual support.

Winning the state speech competition and finishing in the first runner-up spot in the academic competition in a field of ninety-seven participants tells a lot about Krystal's chances at the national competition.

"Krystal is responsible and enthusiastic and competent in all of her endeavors," said Mrs. Cathy Broadway, Pass Christian High School's assistant principal. "She has been active as a cheerleader, drama and student council."

Additionally, Krystal has been active in Beta Club. She was sophomore class president and was selected to Who's Who Among American High School Students. She is the daughter of Carmen Dedeaux.

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TEREETA ROBERTS

Moss Point High School graduate, Tereeta Roberts has been recognized for academic achievement as a United States National Honor Roll Award winner by the U.S. Achievement Academy. Roberts, along with many other high school students, will appear in the U.S. Achievement Academy Official Yearbook, which is published nationally.

"Recognizing and supporting our youth is more important than ever before in America's history. Certainly, U.S. Achievement Academy winners should be congratulated and appreciated for their dedication to excellence and achievement," said Dr. George Stevens, Executive Director of the United states Achievement Academy.

According to Dr. Stevens, the USAA National Honor Roll Awards provide honor roll students with many benefits and services and is a great tribute to a student's dedication, talent and ability.

Tereeta Roberts is the daughter of Terry Bolton Roberts of Moss Point. Her grandparents are Mildred Bolton, also of Moss Point, and Gertrude Anderson of Pascagoula, Mississippi.

Submitted by Jeanie Lunsford, Moss Point Schools Communications Director.

A1C MARY L. SAUCIER

A1C Mary L. Saucier has been named the 2nd Medical Group Airman of the Quarter (April-June) at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana. Saucier's selection was based on demonstrated leadership and job performance, significant self-improvement and positive representation of the Air Force.

A1C Saucier was handpicked by senior management from a pool of 15 highly qualified airmen to serve as Prosthodontic Suite Supervisor, a position usually held by a more seasoned/experienced airman. She is known for her enthusiasm for supporting morale-building activities for her squadron, base and the local community. She is an extremely active member of the Dental Clinic Association; and she has directly contributed to enhancement/cohesiveness of squadron personnel.

A1C Saucier is the daughter of Cynthia Saucier and Paul Saucier of Bay St. Louis.

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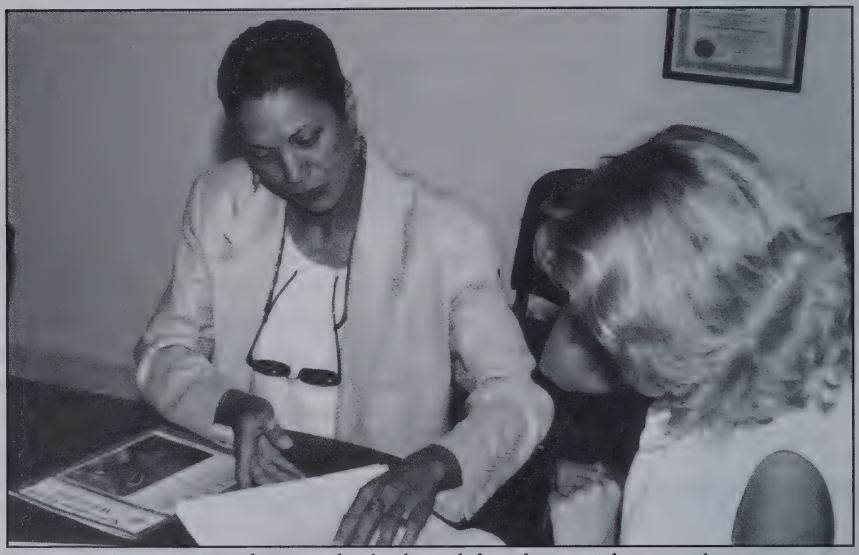
Local Realtor Finds Niche in Strong Coast Economy

by Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.



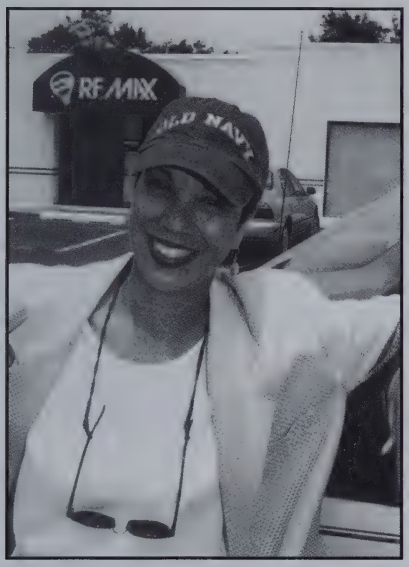
Countess Crenchaw works closely with her clients with a consultative approach to buying and selling real estate.

South Mississippi's boom economy has created a boom in the residential real estate market, which is affecting both the sales of existing houses as well as new construction.

The boom in the economy and the real estate market has led to dramatic increases in property values. For instance, the average home along the Mississippi Gulf Coast sold for approximately $60,000 in 1991 prior to gaming. In 1999 the average selling price is approximately $101,000.

The demand for housing and the rate of value appreciation has kept many real estate agents along the Mississippi Gulf Coast very busy and thriving. Countess M. Crenchaw, a licensed realtor since 1993 appears to have etched out her niche in the real estate market and has grown along with the market.

Crenchaw passed the real estate exam on her first try in December of 1993 and began selling residential properties in 1994. In 1998, Crenchaw's real estate sales volume exceeded $3 million, which amounted to 48 transactions for an average of four units per month. This performance earned her the Gulf Coast Association of Realtors' Top Producer



Crenchaw enjoyed her most successful year in real estate in 1998 and looks forward to an even more productive 1999.

Gold Award.

"A house sells itself," Crenchaw enthusiastically deflects the attention from her success. "In this market a house can sell within thirty days based upon its condition, price and location desirability.

"When there is a boom market, that means that the prices are going to increase," she explained. "You try to sell when it's on an up cycle."

To capitalize on the real estate boom, Crenchaw encourages her clients to purchase a home, enhance the property with paint, wallpaper, landscaping and other improvements and after two or three years sell the property. Many of her clients follow her advice.

She tells the story of one young couple, a nineteen-year old and his young bride whom she represented

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in their purchase of a "fixer-upper" in 1995.

"This is the one we want," Crenchaw remembers the particular client saying about the house which needed a significant amount of work. Now, four years later, the client has recently called her again. And this time, he and his wife called about buying a larger house and placing the present house on the market.

"When you vote to keep gaming here, you are nurturing economic development on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The casinos pay good salaries. The more good salaries there are, the more buyers you have for a strong tax base."

– Countess M. Crenchaw

"It is immaculate!" Crenchaw explained. "You wouldn't believe it's the same house. They added wallpaper, paint, new carpet. It looks so fresh; so inviting. It's going to sell easily; and they're going to make some money."

According to Crenchaw, the couple realized nearly a thirty percent appreciation in the value of their home, due to the improvements they made and the general appreciation of real estate in a growing market. The couple saw the house as an investment opportunity; and four years later they will realize a significant return on their investment.

Crenchaw's advice has paid off for her clients; but her advice pays off for her as well. She "practices what she preaches." Crenchaw started purchasing homes in 1982. She would fix them up and either sell or rent them. One house netted her $15 thousand in equity after two years. A recent purchase has provided a twenty percent return due to upgrades, location and the economic boom on the coast.

Crenchaw is not very surprised by the rapid appreciation in the real estate market. She sees the growth in the local residential housing market as a by-product of the growth in the Coast's gaming industry.

"When you vote to keep gaming here, you are nurturing economic development on the Mississippi Gulf Coast," Crenchaw added. "The casinos pay good salaries. The more good salaries there are, the more buyers you have for a strong tax base.

"You've got people who have never had health insurance, who drove only junker cars, who have never been homeowners," said Crenchaw. "The casinos have opened their doors with good salaries, insurance for families and discretionary income to buy decent cars. And the potential to become homeowners, which is by law a U.S. citizen's right. And they should be allowed that right."

Countess M. Crenchaw is a certified residential specialist and graduate of the Realtors Institute and presently licensed with RE/MAX Southern Shore Realty in Gulfport, Mississippi.

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A View From the Executive's Suite

by Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

Photos of Willie Mays, Wilt Chamberlain and Jim Brown provide inspiration to Robert Boone, Vice President of Human Resources and Risk Management at Isle of Capri, Inc.

The Mississippi Gulf Coast's tourism industry was energized with the advent of gaming in the early 1990's. The rapid growth of the industry created opportunity for local people as well as for people from across the country. An executive headhunter recruited Robert F. Boone for the position of Vice President of Human Resources and Risk Management at Casino America, Inc. (Isle of Capri).

The Ohio native considered the position; and after a visit to the area, he accepted the position. Boone says that he was impressed with the friendliness of the people as well as the coast's natural beauty. He had visited Mississippi before - Vicksburg and Jackson - back in the 1970's, but he had never been as far south as the coast. In fact, the thought of Mississippi having beaches had never occurred to him. The image he had of Mississippi was a grim one, a 1950's, 1960's version. Not anymore.

"When I came to the area. I didn't have any real expectations," said Boone. "I was new to the gaming area and new to the gulf coast. Getting involved in a new career, I don't think I had any real expectations of the Gulf Coast. What I

have found is it is a good place to live."

Boone was an executive at the Mall of America in Minneapolis before moving to the coast seven years ago. Much has changed in the short time he has been here. The growth of casinos has sparked residual growth in most other industries.

"The coast has grown from what I considered a nice quiet vacation area to a destination resort," Boone explained. "You'll see more conventions, conferences, family reunions and trade shows. Because now there are hotel rooms and convention space to handle it. There'll be more sports events. There have been two world class fights here. Five years ago you wouldn't have seen that. Now because of the hotel rooms on the coast and the variety of things to do, you'll see that type of growth.

Boone believes that economic growth on the coast will continue to go up as other industries move into the area.

"When I came here there were no quality hotels," Boone added. "Now what's come along five years later are luxury hotels. When we were here five years ago, there were emerging casino organizations. Now you have the mega casinos coming here. Beau Rivage and Circus Circus."

One of the concerns with the increasing number of casinos entering the market was: "Can the market sustain all of the casino organizations?" Some of the casinos have actually closed, however the market has continued to grow, and most of the older casinos have benefited from that growth.

"As the market grows, you can make more money off being the second choice. If you actively market and advertise what you have so that people are ware of what you have to offer, then you stand a chance of being if not the primary, the second or third choice," Boone explained.

"When you look at a gambler, he or she will visit three casinos on average. One of the statistics show that they will spend 65 percent of their money at their destination casino, 25% at their second choice, and 10 percent at the third casino."

Boone added that the focus of marketing the coast should be directed in the area of conferences and conventions. "We must continue to market the coast as a conference and convention destination. The coast is able to attract regional and national conventions because of the hotel rooms. And now that all three of the four airlines offer jet service, it makes it much easier to get in and out of the coast."

An upcoming convention to the Mississippi Gulf Coast which Boone has been involved in from a local support standpoint is *The Black Women's Expo,* scheduled for late August. Boone believes the convention will become an annual event with the potential to bring millions of dollars to the coast each year.

"There is an active, aggressive effort among the black professionals to make this convention successful," said Boone. "If you look at the national speakers they've attracted, it's going to be a very successful venture.

"Susan Taylor of *Essence Magazine* is going to be the keynote speaker. Between ten and fifteen thousand African Americans are expected to visit the coast for this event."

Boone appears to be quite pleased with the efforts of the planners and local volunteers on the Black Women's Expo. He is bothered, however, by what he perceives to be a *dropped ball* on the part of the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"I am really disappointed with the Convention and Visitors Bureau," said Boone. "Two years ago they made a conscious effort to attract African American conventions. To date we haven't gotten the local support that we would like to have seen.

"The Black Meeting planners were here. They are worth seven billion dollars in terms of meetings and conferences they represent. They had an opportunity to take a look at what's here. We would hope to see some reciprocal conferences as a result of that," Boone added.

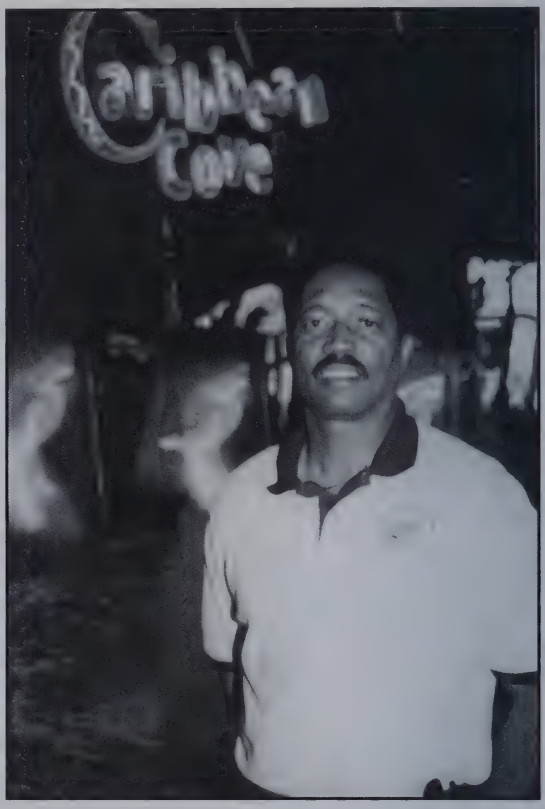
"From what I see, the active recruitment has died down. Whether that be good, bad or indifferent, I don't know yet. I am really disappointed at the Convention and Visitors Bureau. This is an annual conference that could be a yearly convention with the potential to bring $3 million annually to the coast. It gives me concern with getting future major minority conventions to the coast. I am concerned with the position they have taken. My feeling is not just for *The Black Women's Expo.* It's for the coast.

"If we are going to become a convention destination for all people then we must follow up on what we do. We've got it here. If we are only going to support select conventions and conferences, then other conventions and conferences

are going to be concerned. From a business standpoint African American conferences and conventions represent a $17 billion market. I am concerned with the green support that we bring to the coast. As a company, we have always supported economic development."

One person who has appreciated Boone's position is Luci Marian Roberts, co-chair of the Coast Minority Tourism Marketing Council. "Robert has a quiet organizational strength," Roberts explained. "He is like a goalie on a team that no one gives him credit until something spectacular happens.

"Robert doesn't do much talking; he acts," said Roberts. "When you feel things are not going right, Robert's there. He is a positive person. He points out the good things that are happening. And he is usually making the good things happen. The Gulf Coast is lucky to have a person like Robert Boone."



A native of Ohio, Robert Boone is right at home on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The Gulf Coast may be lucky to have Boone, however Boone may feel pretty lucky to have found the coast and to call it home. Earlier this month he married Yolonda Fredericks, daughter of state representative Frances Fredericks and former state representative Isiah Fredericks.

Like any place, the coast may have some challenges, but the coast is home for Boone. And just like any coast resident who loves it here, Boone espouses the coast's good qualities.

"If you look all in all what the coast has to offer, no matter who you are, gender, age or ethnicity, the coast has it: education, affordable housing. It is unlimited from an economic standpoint. Development is at an all time high. It bodes well for everyone here. In a nutshell, the future for the coast is bright and rosy."

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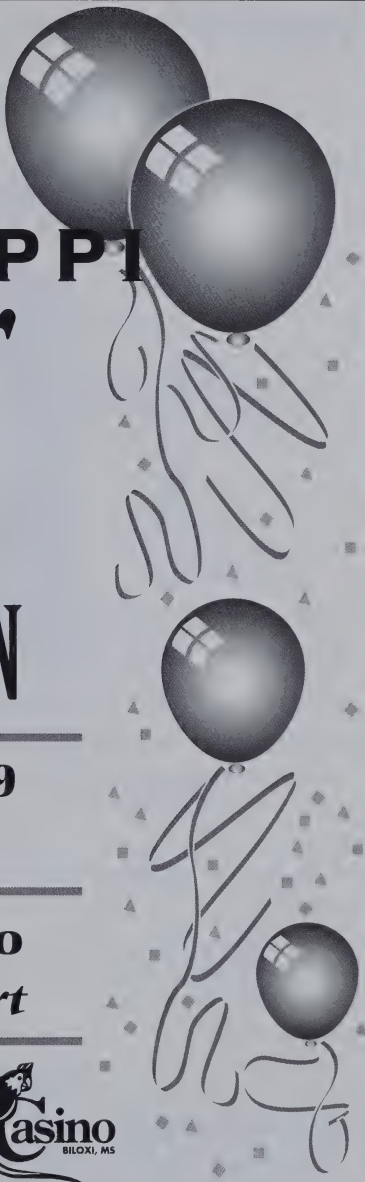

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CRIME VICTIMS' COMPENSATION PROGRAM

by Judge John Whitfield

The Crime Victims' Compensation Program was established by the legislature in 1990 as part of the Mississippi Crime Victims' Compensation Act. The Victims' Compensation Program was established by the legislature in 1990 as part of the Mississippi Crime Victims' Compensation Act. The program is administered by the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration. Although the program is entering its eighth year, much of the general public remains unaware of the program and its intended benefits to the victims of violent crimes.

The Crime Victims' Compensation program is 100% offender funded. In other words, the revenue used to compensate victims of criminal activity does not come from local or state public funds. No tax dollars whatsoever are used to fund the Program.

The Crime Victims' Compensation Program, its compensation payment to victims and administrative costs, are derived from fees, fines, or assessments imposed on individuals convicted of both felonies and misdemeanors within Mississippi at the time of sentencing. Such assessments are in addition to, not in lieu of, fines, court costs, and/or restitution. The minimum assessment is ten dollars ($10.00). However, the Court can, and often does, impose a higher assessment. However, the assessment cannot exceed the maximum fine authorized by law.

To qualify for compensation under the program, the person seeking compensation must be a victim of a crime resulting in death or personal injury. Additionally, a person seeking compensation from the Crime Victims' Compensation Program must meet the following criteria:

1) The crime occurred on or after July 1, 1991.
2) An application for compensation was filed within eighteen (18) months of the date of the crime. (IN cases of child sexual abuse, the application must be filed within 18 months after the crime was reported to law enforcement or the Department of Human Services, but no later than the child's twenty-first birthday).
3) The victim was not involved in a criminal act at the time of the

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4) The crime was reported to law enforcement officials within 72 hours, unless good cause can be shown for not doing so.
5) The victim must fully cooperate with the criminal justice officials investigating the crime and ultimately charged with the prosecution of the offender, for example the District Attorney's office.
6) At the time of the crime, the victim was not confined in any federal, state, county or city jail or correctional facility.

Once a victim meets the aforementioned criteria, a victim may receive a maximum total award of $10,000 in compensation for expenses incurred for necessary products, services and accommodations including, but not limited to, medical care, rehabilitation, rehabilitative occupational training, mental health counseling and care and funeral expenses. The victim may also receive compensation for loss of wages. Finally, surviving dependents may receive compensation for the loss of financial support which was provided by the deceased victim.

The Victim Compensation Hearing Officer receives, investigates, verifies and adjudicates claims for compensation under the Act. If after investigation, the Hearing Officer denies the claim, the claimant may appeal the Hearing Officer's denial to the Circuit Court of the county of the claimant's residence or where the crime occurred.

The Victims' Compensation Fund also accepts gifts, bequests, grants, or donations to assist in administration of the Fund.

Since its inception, the Victim's Compensation Program has paid out more than $4.2 million in compensation to victims of crime statewide. Residents of the three coastal counties, i.e., Hancock, Harrison and Jackson, have received compensation in excess of $450,000 since the program began in 1992.

During 1998, The Victim's Compensation Program approved 1057 claims. This was a significant increase from the previous year wherein there were only 371 claims approved statewide. As more people become aware of the program, many will avail themselves of it. If you would like to receive more information regarding the Victim's Compensation Program, you may call 1-800-829-6766 or 601-359-6766. To obtain an application to apply for compensation benefits if you are the victim of a crime, you may write to the Victim's Compensation Fund Program, Post Office Box 267, Jackson, MS, 39205.

If you are a victim of a crime, contact the Crime Victim's Compensation Fund Program. If you know of someone, who was a victim of a crime, pass this information along. Knowing your rights is important. Protecting your rights is essential.

Note: Nothing contained in this article is intended to give legal advice. If you need individual legal advice, you should contact an attorney.

BRIEFS

(Jackson, MS) Virnessa J. McGee of Gulfport has been elected to serve as assistant secretary of the Jackson State University Student Government Association for the 1999-2000 academic year.

A sophomore computer science major at Jackson State, McGee is a member of the JSU Dean's List, Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society, Association for Computing Machinery, Tiger Pride Connection, NAACP, Students in Free Enterprise and the Mississippi Alliance for Minority Participation.

Virnessa is the daughter of Mrs. Virgie McGee and Mr. James McGee. She is a 1997 graduate of Gulfport High School.

Submitted by Pamela McCoy, Jackson State University Public Relations

Tania Marie Price and her children visit with Jesse Jackson during his visit to Gulfside Assembly in Waveland in May.

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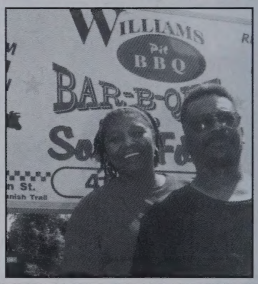

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